

REMARKS

The Office rejected Claims 1, 6-12, and 17-23 and objected to claims 2-5 and 13-16. Claims 1 and 12 are hereby canceled; claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-17, and 20-23 are amended to place them into condition for allowance. Applicants accordingly submit that these are appropriate after-final amendments.

Claims 2-5 and 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 13 are amended to be in independent form. Claims 3-5 and 14-16 are amended to depend from either claim 2 or 13. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 2-5 and 13-16 are in a condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6-12, and 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,907,324 issued to Larson et al. ("Larson"). Claims 1 and 12 are canceled without prejudice, rendering their rejections moot. Claims 6, 9-10, 17, and 20-23 are amended to depend from one of amended claims 2 or 13. Claims 7-8 and 18-19 depend from one of amended claims 6 or 17. Dependent claim 11 is amended to reference amended claim 2. Applicants accordingly submit that claims 6-10, 11, and 17-23 are in condition for allowance. Applicants do not agree with these rejections but amend the claims in the interest of obtaining patent issuance and hereby reserve the right to pursue claims 1 and 12 in a continuation application.

Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1542. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

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